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The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington is pleased to announce that **David W. Christel** has been selected as the new full-time magistrate judge in Tacoma. “Judge Christel has dedicated years of service to expanding court services in Southwest Washington,” says Judge Pechman. “We are delighted that he will be joining us full time.”

Judge Christel has served the Western District of Washington as a part-time magistrate judge in Vancouver, Washington, since 2007. He has handled a variety of federal court matters arising in Southwest Washington, and works on a monthly basis with the Tacoma docket.

Judge Christel was born in Tacoma, Washington, and is a graduate of Wilson High School. He received his BA degree from Washington State University and his JD from the University of Washington Law School in 1985. In addition to his work with the Western District of Washington, Judge Christel has practiced law in Vancouver since 1987.

Judge Christel has served on the Vancouver School District Foundation Board assisting disadvantaged youth, as well as the Vancouver School District Board of Directors. Judge Christel organized and leads a youth mentoring program at Fort Vancouver High School. He is a long-time basketball official at the high school and college levels, and has coached youth basketball, baseball, and soccer.

Judge Christel has begun the background investigation process, and is expected to transition into the full-time role on April 1 in Tacoma.